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Grammar: Nouns & Pronouns





Nouns

A noun is a word that names something, such as a person, place, thing, or idea.

In a sentence, nouns can play the role of subject, direct object, indirect object, etc.

Examples

Names: Leo Tolstoy, the Prime Minister, my mother

Places: India, Disneyland, my office

Things: shoe, table, football

Intangible things (abstract): freedom, love, peace



Types of Nouns

1. Common Noun:

A common noun is a noun that refers to people or things in general.

For example: boy, bridge, day, birth, happiness.

2. Proper Noun:

A proper noun is a name that identifies a particular person, place or thing.

For example: India, USA, tower, name of day - (Monday), name of month - (January) etc.

3. Collective Noun:

Collective nouns refer to groups of people or things.

For example: family, team, government, jury etc.

4. Compound Noun:

Compound nouns refer to two or more nouns combined to form a single noun.

For example: sister-in-law, fruit juice, schoolgirl etc.



Types of Nouns

5. **Abstract Noun:**

An abstract noun refers to ideas, qualities and conditions - things that cannot be seen or touched and things which have no physical reality.

For example: truth, happiness, friendship etc.

6. **Countable Noun:**

Countable nouns have a singular and a plural form.

For example: Car-Cars, Friend – Friends

7. **Uncountable Noun:**

Uncountable noun can only be used in singular. They can't be counted.

For example: money, water, bread, coffee etc.



Functions of Nouns

Nouns can be used as a subject, a direct object, and an indirect object of a verb; as an object of a preposition; and as an adverb or adjective in sentences. Nouns can also show possession.

Subject: The company is doing great.

Sunflowers are the flowers of joy.

Direct object: I finally bought a new mobile.

Indirect object: Mahi gave Chetan another chocolate.

Object of preposition: Roses are the flowers of love.

Adverb: The train leaves today.

Adjective: The office building faces the mall.

Possession: The lion's cage is dangerous.

My brother's daughter is adorable.



Let's Practise!

Underline the common nouns

1. Jyoti loves the beaches of the country.
2. I enjoy writing poetry.
3. The phone fell and broke.

Fill in the countable nouns

1. There are five _____ in the street.
2. I bought three _____ of rice.
3. Margaret has six _____ of blue sandals.

1. Ans:
2. Beaches, Country
3. Poetry
4. Phone

1. People
2. Kilograms
3. Pairs



Underline the countable nouns

1. *I'm making a cup of coffee.*
2. *There's some money on the table.*
3. *Do you have a packet of butter?*

Underline the collective nouns

1. The band of musicians delivered a magical performance.
2. A bunch of grapes was hanging from the vine.
3. A flight of stairs leads to the terrace.

Underline the possessive nouns

1. The car's front seat is torn.
2. The Joneses' house is on the corner.
3. The soldiers' guns were loaded.

Ans:

Countable nouns

1. Cup - countable // coffee - uncountable
2. Table - countable // money - uncountable
3. packet of butter-countable // Just "butter" - uncountable

Collective Nouns

1. Band
2. Bunch
3. Flight

Possessive Nouns

1. car's
2. Joneses'
3. Soldiers'



Pronouns

Pronoun **substitutes a noun**. Pronoun helps avoid redundancy.

➔ Sarah has always loved fashion. Sarah announced that Sarah wants to go to fashion school.

Instead, you can use the pronouns **she** and **her** to refer to Sarah.

➔ Sarah has always loved fashion. She announced that she wants to go to fashion school.



Types of Pronouns - Introduction

	Subject Pronoun	Object Pronoun	Possessive Adjective	Possessive Pronoun	Reflexive Pronoun
1 st person singular	I	Me	My	Mine	Myself
1 st person plural	We	Us	Our	Ours	Ourselves
2 nd person singular	You	You	Your	Yours	Yourself
2 nd person plural	You	You	Your	Yours	Yourselves
3 rd person singular (feminine)	She	Her	Her	Hers	Herself
3 rd person singular (masculine)	He	Him	His	His	Himself
3 rd person singular (thing)	It	It	Its	(not used)	Itself
3 rd person plural	They	Them	Their	Theirs	Themselves



Useful Pronoun Rules

Rule 1 - Subject Pronoun

Subject pronouns are used when the pronoun is the subject of the sentence. You can remember subject pronouns easily by filling in the blank subject space for a simple sentence.

Example: ____ did the job.

I, he, she, we, they, who, whoever, etc., all qualify and are, therefore, subject pronouns.

Rule 2 - Object Pronouns - me, him, her, us, them, themselves, herself.

Example: Jean saw him.

➔ "Him" is the direct object of the verb saw.



Useful Pronoun Rules (Cont.)

Rule 3 - The pronouns **who**, **that**, and **which** become singular or plural depending on the subject. If the subject is singular, use a singular verb. If it is plural, use a plural verb.

Example 1: He is the **only one** of those men who **is** always on time.

➔ The word "who" refers to "only one". Therefore, use the singular verb "is".
Sometimes we must look more closely to find a verb's true subject.

Example 2: He is **one of those men** who **are** always on time.

➔ The word "who" refers to "men". Therefore, use the plural verb are.

Rule 4 - Pronouns that are singular (***I, he, she, everyone, everybody, anyone, anybody, no one, nobody, someone, somebody, each, either, neither, etc.***) require singular verbs.

Each of the girls sings well.

Either of us is capable of doing the job.

Neither of them is available to speak right now.



Useful Pronoun Rules (Cont.)

Rule 5 - The possessive pronouns *yours, his, hers, its, ours, theirs, and whose* never need apostrophes. Avoid mistakes like *her's* and *your's*.

Examples: It's been a cold morning.

The thermometer reached **its** highest reading.

Rule 6 - Pronouns that **end in -self or -selves** are called **reflexive pronouns**. There are nine reflexive pronouns: *myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, oneself, ourselves, yourselves, and themselves*.

Reflexive pronouns are used when both the subject and the object of a verb are the same person or thing.

Example: Joe helped **himself**.



Noun - Pronoun Agreement Basics

A pronoun should have a clear reference to a noun in a sentence.

Just like subjects and verbs, nouns and the pronouns that refer to them should agree in number.

Example:

- The importance of this study is that the study may allow researchers to understand the impact of the Common Core on teaching.

➔ Rather than repeating "study" twice, it is possible to use a pronoun.

Revision:

The importance of this study is that it may allow researchers to understand the impact of the Common Core on teaching.

➔ Because "study" is singular, use a singular pronoun ("it") to replace it.

Example:

- When participants arrived for their interview, participants needed help finding the correct location.

Revision:

When participants arrived for their interview, they needed help finding the correct location.

➔ Because "participants" is plural, use a plural pronoun to replace it.



Let's Practise!

1. The supervisor and the employees disagreed about the number of times _____ should meet each month.
2. Lata didn't come to school because _____ was sick.
3. Kartik felt nervous when Mala asked _____ to dance.
4. The little fish knew _____ was doomed when the shark came around the corner.
5. The woman arrived at the store, but _____ had forgotten her wallet and had to go back home.
6. The blind man was about to walk into the street, but I ran over and helped _____.
7. New doctors must pass _____ certification exams before getting licenses.
8. Some of the marbles fell out of _____ bag.

Remember: They is the best gender neutral pronoun.

Example:

Everyone on the airplane sat in their assigned seat.

Ans:

1. they
2. she
3. him
4. It
5. She
6. Him
7. their
8. the



Remember!

Collective nouns are treated as singular nouns. So, they should always be replaced by a singular pronoun.

Example:

A **group** of teachers met to see if **it** could find a way to help students improve their IELTS scores.

Because the subject is singular ("a group"), the pronoun ("it") must also be singular.

Demonstrative Pronouns

Demonstrative pronouns indicate a specific subject. When using demonstrative pronouns, you could imagine yourself pointing at the object.

That and **this** are singular, referring to a single subject, while **these** and **those** are plural.



Demonstrative Pronoun	Example Sentence
That (singular, far)	You shouldn't touch that.
This (singular, near)	This is what I was talking about.
These (plural, near)	These are for Dheeraj and Shashi.
Those (plural, far)	Do you remember where I set those papers?



Let's Practice!

1. _____ was such an interesting experience.

- a) That
- b) These
- c) Those
- d) Such

2. Are _____ your shoes?

- a) that
- b) them
- c) those
- d) this

3. You'll have to get your own pen. _____ is mine.

- a) that
- b) those
- c) such
- d) this

Ans:

- 1. That
- 2. Those
- 3. This

THANK YOU